

prime farmland for agriculture and that it should not be diverted for non-agricultural purposes;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have received suggestions to amend the Constitution to bring agriculture in the concurrent List; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Land is a State subject and, therefore, it is for the States to bring about suitable legislation regarding regulation of conversion of agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Programme of State Land Use Boards (SLUBs). Some of the States, through their SLUBs have issued instructions and executive orders to the line departments of their Government to ensure that prime agricultural land is not diverted for non-agricultural purposes, and if it becomes necessary to do so, then efforts may be made to provide equivalent land in lieu of diverted land.

Recently, the Government of India have also provided a checklist to all the State Governments to consider at the time of approving/giving no. objection for the Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

(c) and (d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Damage to cotton crops due to pests

2579. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that cotton, an important commercial crop grown in India, is being attacked by a number of pests in various States resulting into damage of cotton crops; and

(b) if so, the details of measures proposed by Government to save the cotton crop from the pest attack, to save the poor agriculturists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) There is no report of any serious outbreak of any pests on cotton during the current year.

(b) Government have adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as

the cardinal principle of plant protection under which Central IPM Centres have been set up across the country to, *inter-alia*, impart training to farmers in IPM by organizing Farmers' Field Schools (FFSs). Packages of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops including cotton have been developed and circulated to all States for use by extension functionaries and farmers. Assistance is also available for pest control under the Technology Mission on Cotton.

Cost of production of sugarcane

2580. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made to assess the cost of production of sugarcane in the country;

(b) if so, the results thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of average cost of production of sugarcane in the country during the years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, State-wise; and

(d) the names of States which had the maximum and minimum cost of production of sugarcane during the above-mentioned period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Study to assess the cost of production of sugarcane is carried out under "Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India", from time to time. The cost of production of sugarcane in the major sugarcane growing States in the country during 2002-03 to 2005-06 are as follows:

Cost of production of sugarcane in the major sugarcane growing States

Name of the State	2002-03	Year 2003-04	(Rs./quintal)	
			2004-05	2005-06*
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	71.68	65.24	78.65	83.40